CHRONOSEAR

KAZUMASA TAKAYAMA

DARK HORSE COMICS

Manga

CHRONOWAR
5 OF 9

$2.95 US
$4.15 CAN

A DECADE OF DARK HORSE

STUDIO PROTEUS

DIRECT SALES

7 61568 96456 1 00511

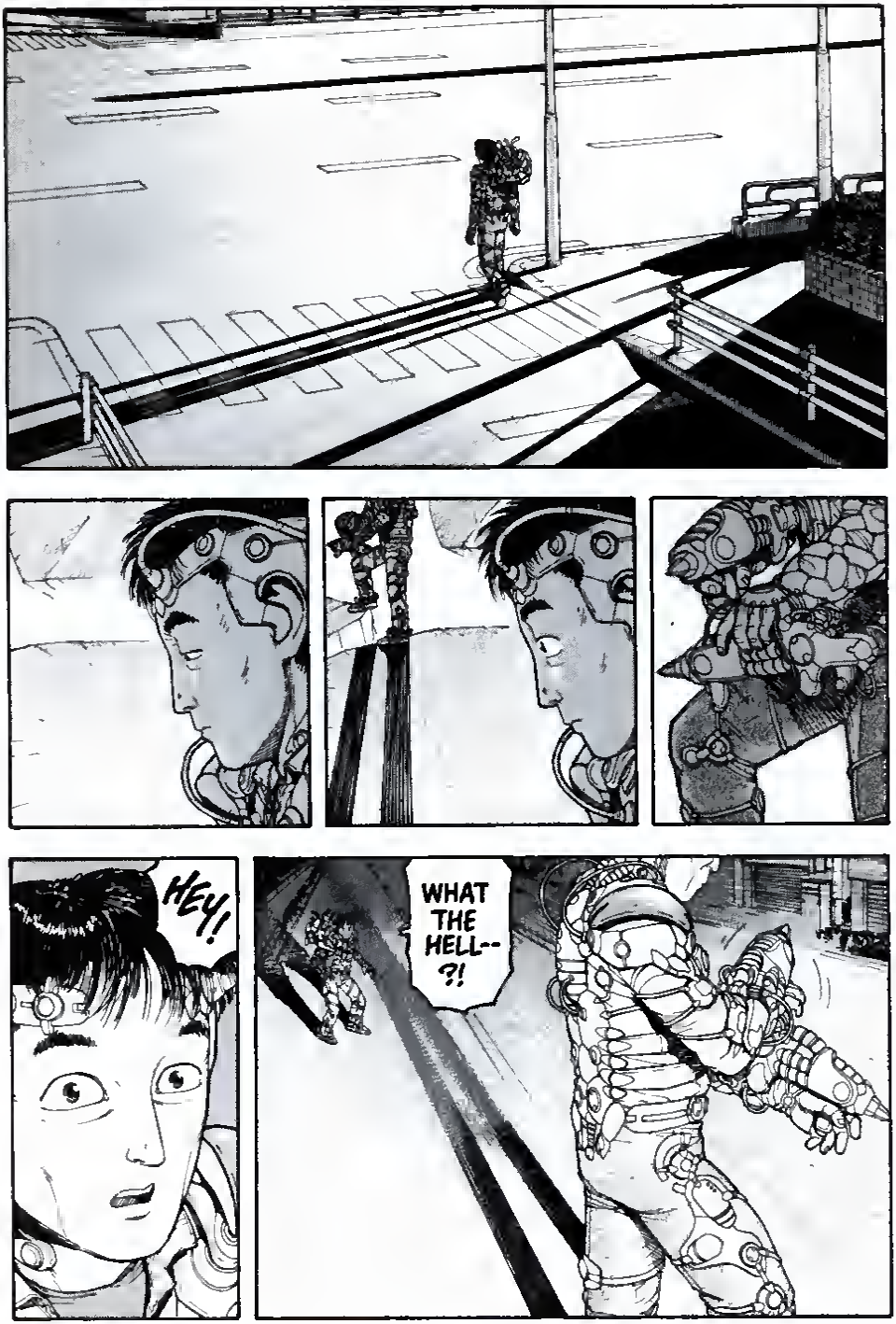
CHRONOCROSS

story and art by KAZUMASA TAKAYAMA
translated by DANA LEWIS
and TOREN SMITH
lettering and retouch by TOMOKO SAITO
cover by KAZUMASA TAKAYAMA
cover colors by DAVE NESTELLE
design by HARALD GRAHAM
edited by DAVE CHIPPS

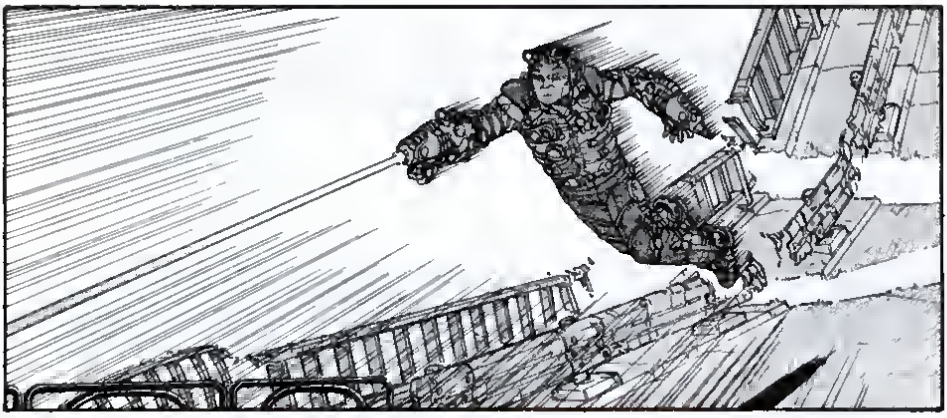
Mike Richardson . publisher
Neil Hankerson . executive vice president
David Scroggy . vice president of publishing
Lou Dark . vice president of sales & marketing
Andy Karabatsos . vice president of finance
Mark Anderson . general counsel
Mahlon C. Chadwick . director of editorial adm.
Randy Stradley . creative director
Cindy Marks . director of production & design
Mark Cox . art director
Sean Tierney . computer graphics director
Michael Martens . director of sales
Ted Berlenke . director of licensing
Mark Ellington . director of operations
Dale Lafountain . director of m.i.s.

English version produced by
Studio Proteus for Dark Horse Comics, Inc.

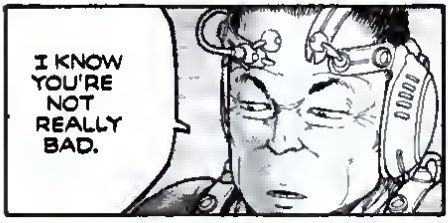
Chronowar #5. December 1996. Published by Dark Horse Comics, Inc. 10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222. Chronowar original art and story © 1996 Kazumasa Takayama. First published in Japan in 1995 by Kodansha Ltd. Tokyo. English translation rights arranged through Kodansha Ltd. English translation and lettering copyright ©1996 Studio Proteus and Dark Horse Comics, Inc. The Chronowar English logo™ Studio Proteus and Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All other material copyright ©1996 Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. The stories, characters, and incidents in this publication are entirely fictional. Concrete® & © Paul Chadwick. A Dazzle of Dark Horse™ is a trademark and Dark Horse Comics® and the Dark Horse logo are registered trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN CANADA.


HEY!
WHAT THE HELL--?!

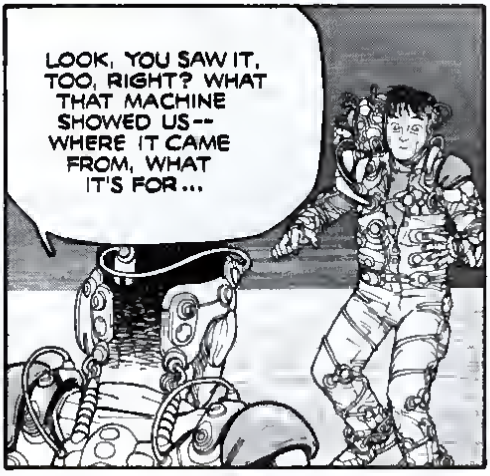
YOU SCREWED UP, KID.
Uh... ARE YOU OKAY? I MEAN, BACK TO NORMAL?
THE SHOCK WAVE FROM THE SATELLITE IMPACT IS COMING UP FROM UNDER THE BRIDGE, REMEMBER? IT'S SLOW, BUT IT FINALLY PUSHED ME CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE DEBRIS FOR ME TO GET AHOLD.

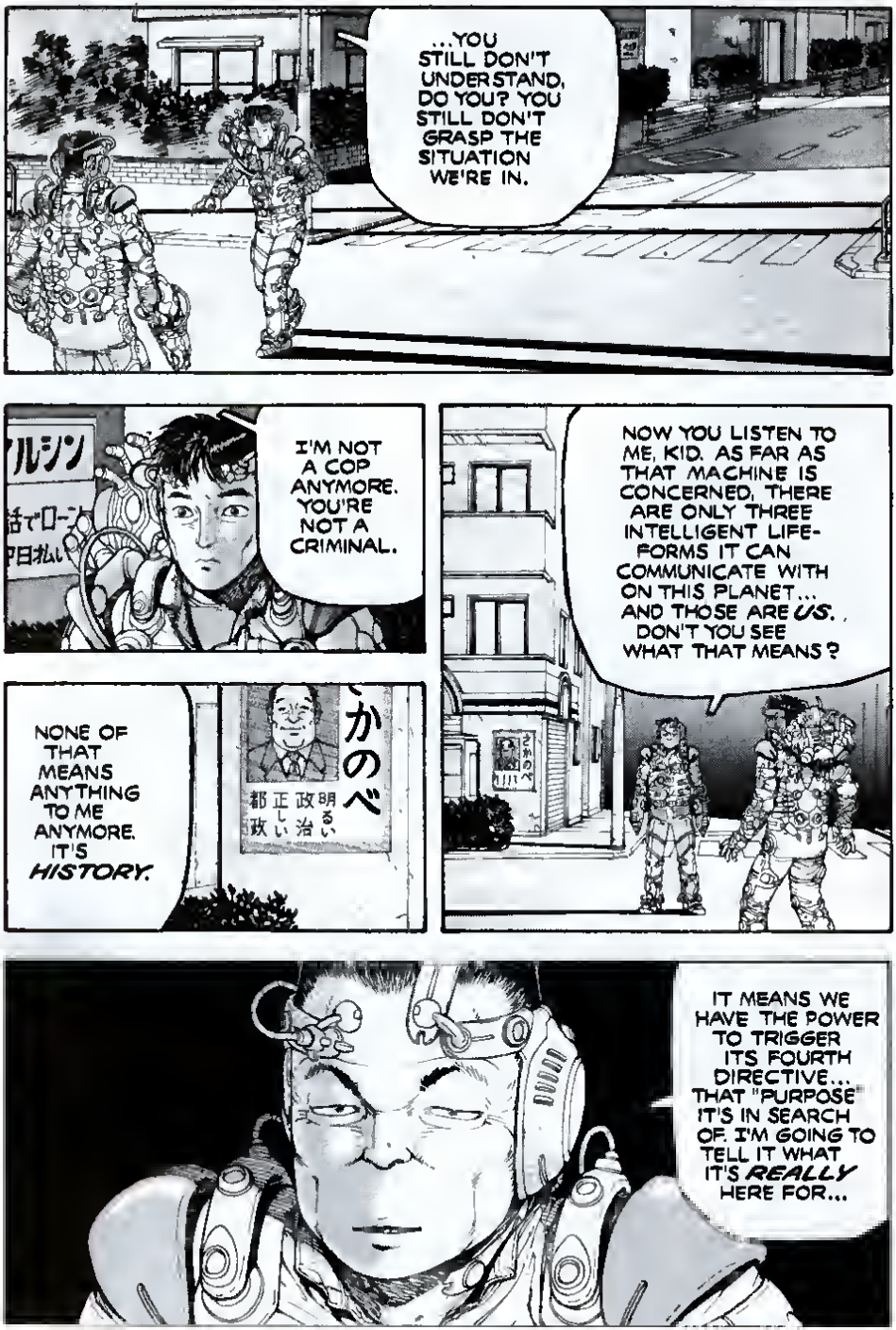


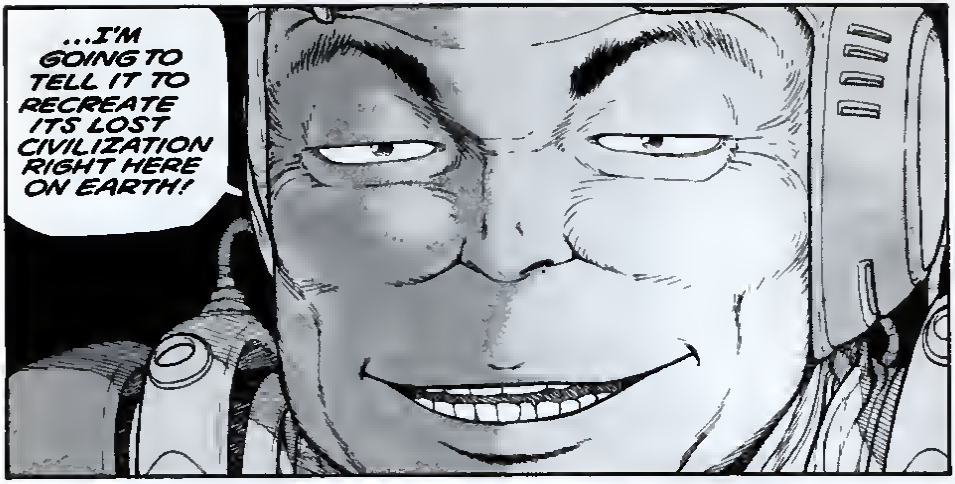
STOP FREAKING OUT. I'M NOT GOING TO ARREST YOU.

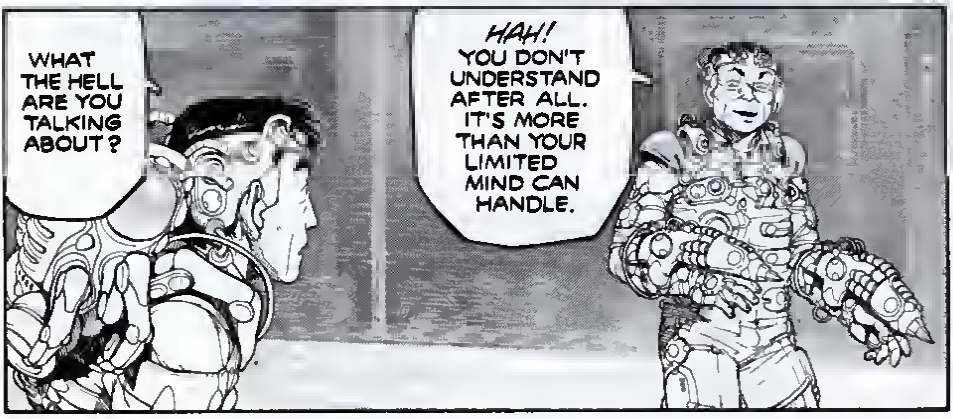

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT REALLY BAD.

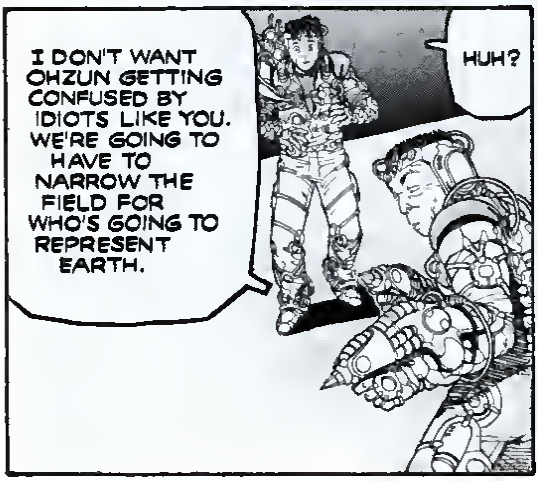
JUST STUPID.
HAVEN'T YOU FIGURED OUT *THAT* MUCH, AT LEAST?

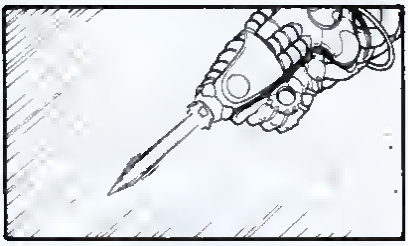

LOOK, YOU SAW IT, TOO, RIGHT? WHAT THAT MACHINE SHOWED US-- WHERE IT CAME FROM, WHAT IT'S FOR...

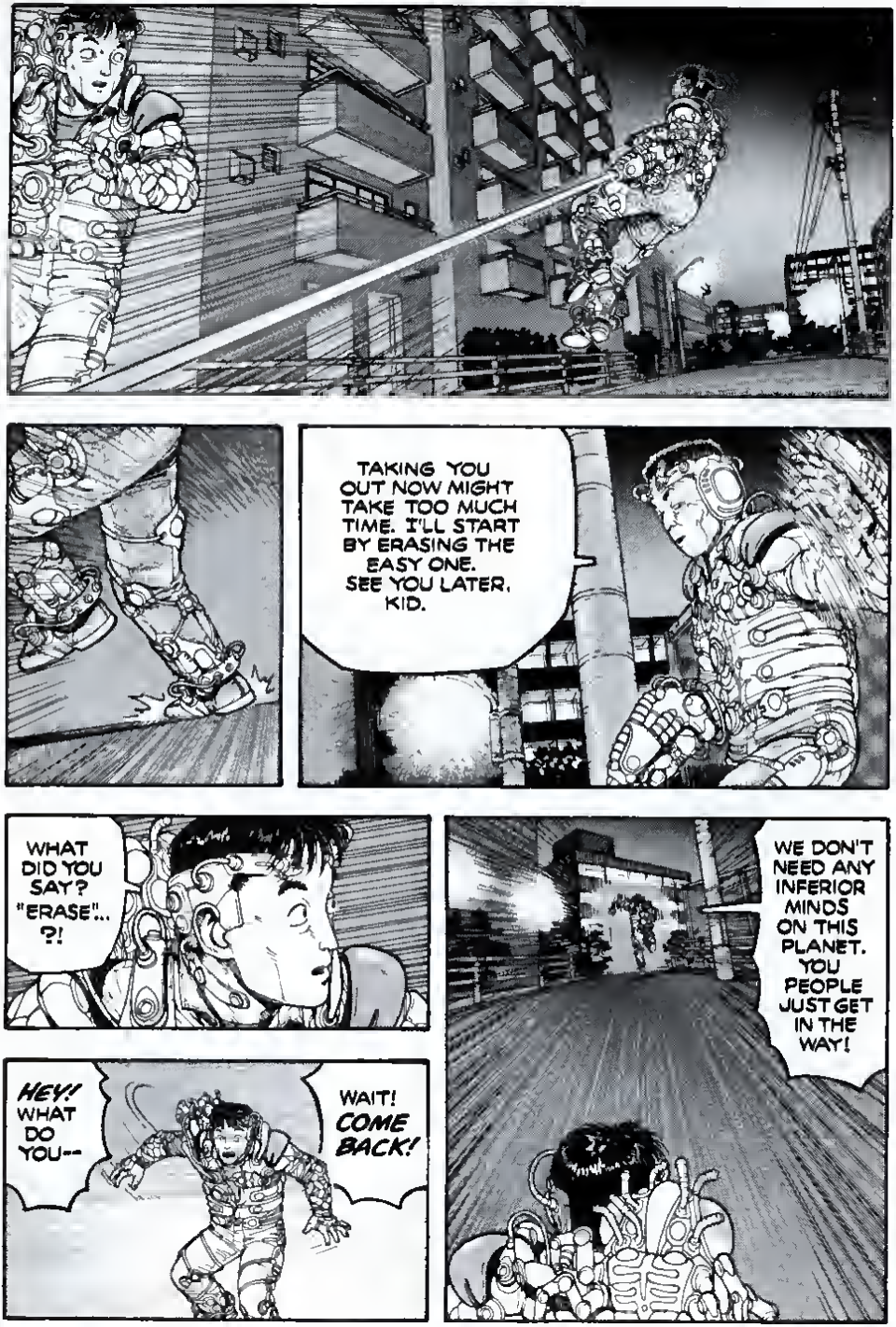

...YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU? YOU STILL DON'T GRASP THE SITUATION WE'RE IN.
I'M NOT A COP ANYMORE. YOU'RE NOT A CRIMINAL.
NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME, KID. AS FAR AS THAT MACHINE IS CONCERNED, THERE ARE ONLY THREE INTELLIGENT LIFE-FORMS IT CAN COMMUNICATE WITH ON THIS PLANET... AND THOSE ARE US. DON'T YOU SEE WHAT THAT MEANS?
NONE OF THAT MEANS ANYTHING TO ME ANYMORE. IT'S HISTORY.
IT MEANS WE HAVE THE POWER TO TRIGGER ITS FOURTH DIRECTIVE... THAT "PURPOSE" IT'S IN SEARCH OF. I'M GOING TO TELL IT WHAT IT'S REALLY HERE FOR...

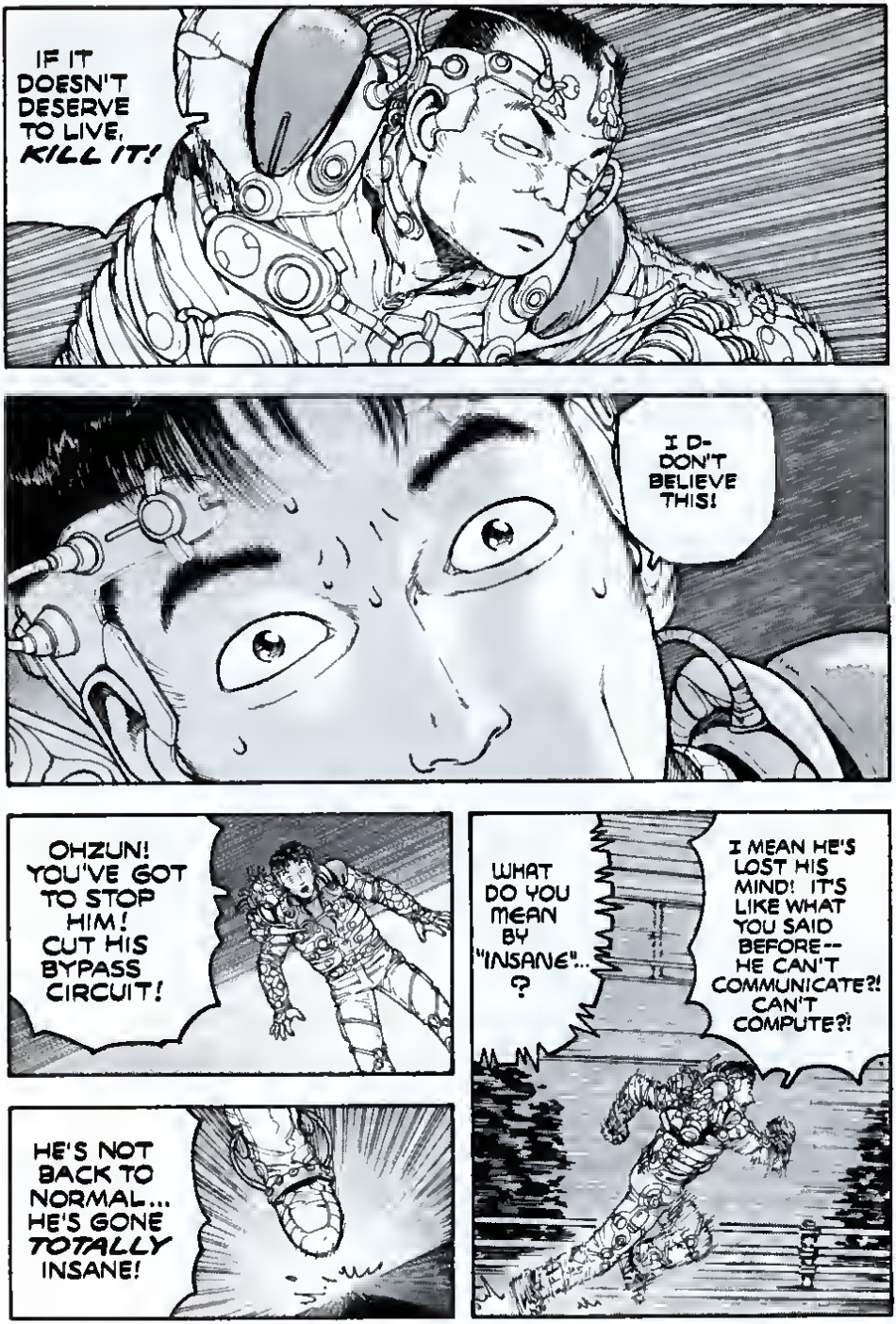

...I'M GOING TO TELL IT TO RECREATE ITS LOST CIVILIZATION RIGHT HERE ON EARTH!


WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HAH! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND AFTER ALL. IT'S MORE THAN YOUR LIMITED MIND CAN HANDLE.

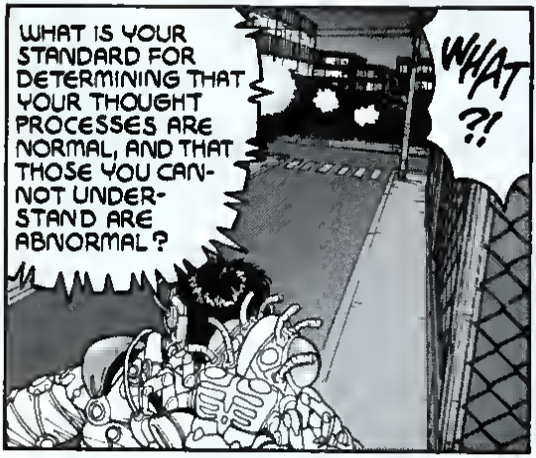

I DON'T WANT OHZUN GETTING CONFUSED BY IDIOTS LIKE YOU. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO NARROW THE FIELD FOR WHO'S GOING TO REPRESENT EARTH.
HUH?



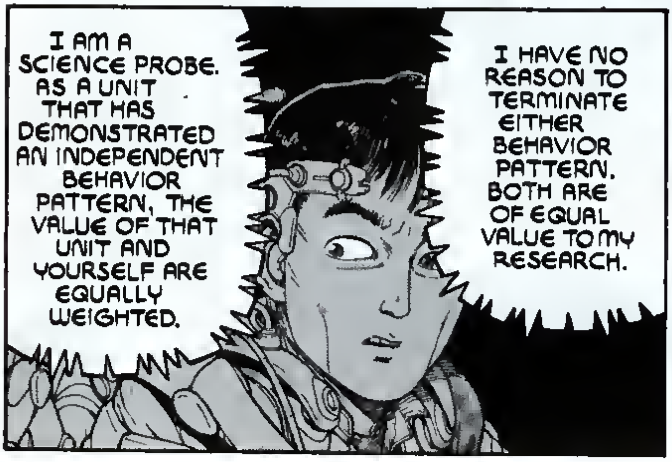

TAKING YOU OUT NOW MIGHT TAKE TOO MUCH TIME. I'LL START BY ERASING THE EASY ONE. SEE YOU LATER, KID.
WHAT DID YOU SAY? "ERASE"... ?!
WE DON'T NEED ANY INFERIOR MINDS ON THIS PLANET. YOU PEOPLE JUST GET IN THE WAY!
HEY! WHAT DO YOU--
WAIT! COME BACK!


IF IT DOESN'T DESERVE TO LIVE, KILL IT!
I D- DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
OHZUN! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP HIM! CUT HIS BYPASS CIRCUIT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "INSANE"...?
I MEAN HE'S LOST HIS MIND! IT'S LIKE WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE-- HE CAN'T COMMUNICATE?! CAN'T COMPUTE?!
HE'S NOT BACK TO NORMAL... HE'S GONE TOTALLY INSANE!

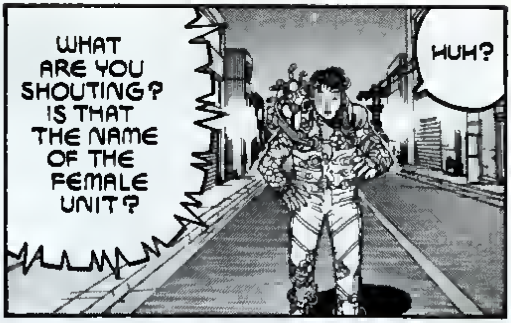
I AM ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU, AND YOU ARE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THAT UNIT USING WORDS.
DAMN IT, OHZUN! HE'S GOING TO KILL HER! FOR SOME CRAZY REASON HE'S MADE UP!

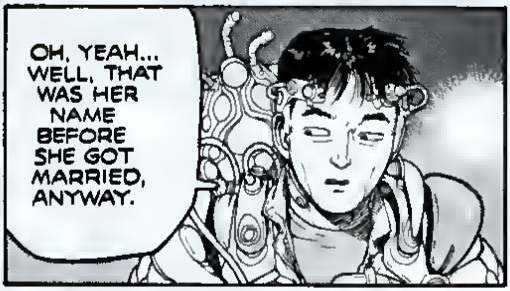

WHAT IS YOUR STANDARD FOR DETERMINING THAT YOUR THOUGHT PROCESSES ARE NORMAL, AND THAT THOSE YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND ARE ABNORMAL?
WHAT ?!

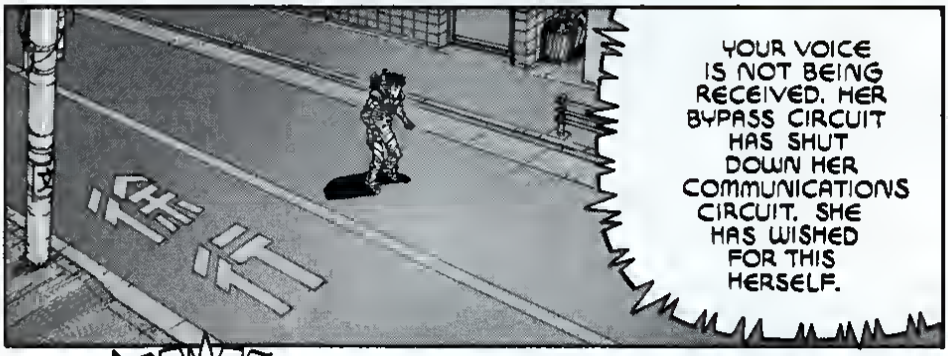
FOR GOD'S SAKE, THIS IS NO TIME TO BE TALKING LIKE SOME STUPID PHILOSOPHER, OHZUN!

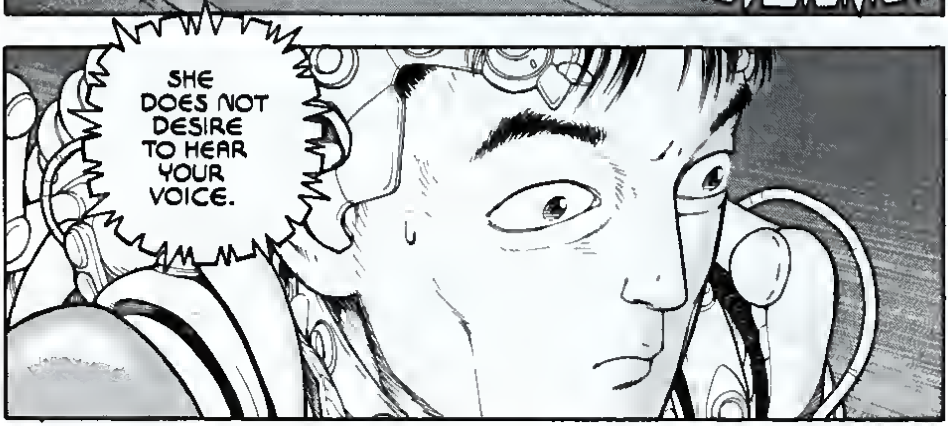

I AM A SCIENCE PROBE. AS A UNIT THAT HAS DEMONSTRATED AN INDEPENDENT BEHAVIOR PATTERN, THE VALUE OF THAT UNIT AND YOURSELF ARE EQUALLY WEIGHTED.
I HAVE NO REASON TO TERMINATE EITHER BEHAVIOR PATTERN. BOTH ARE OF EQUAL VALUE TO MY RESEARCH.

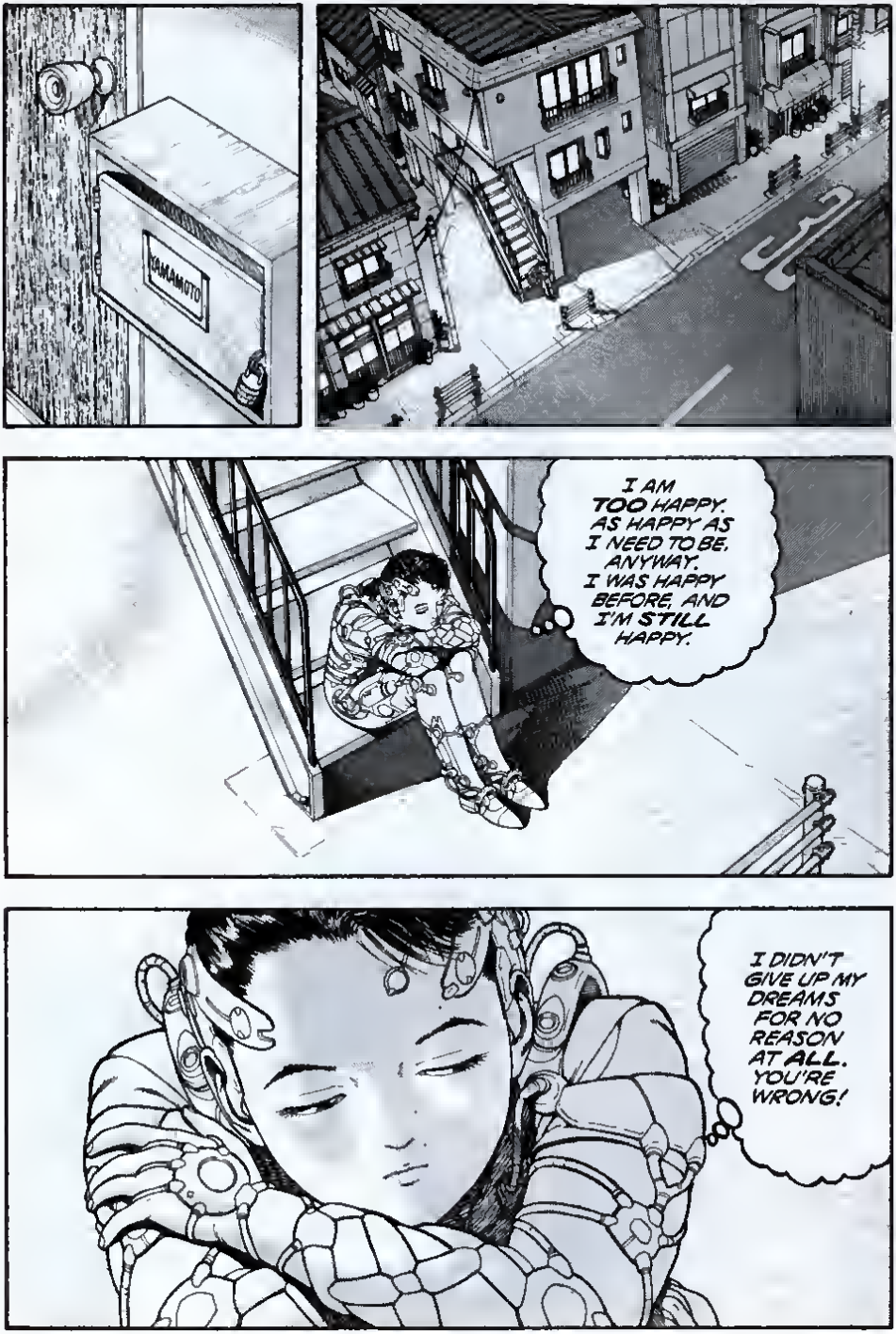
MORIKAWA! CAN YOU HEAR ME?! ANSWER ME!!

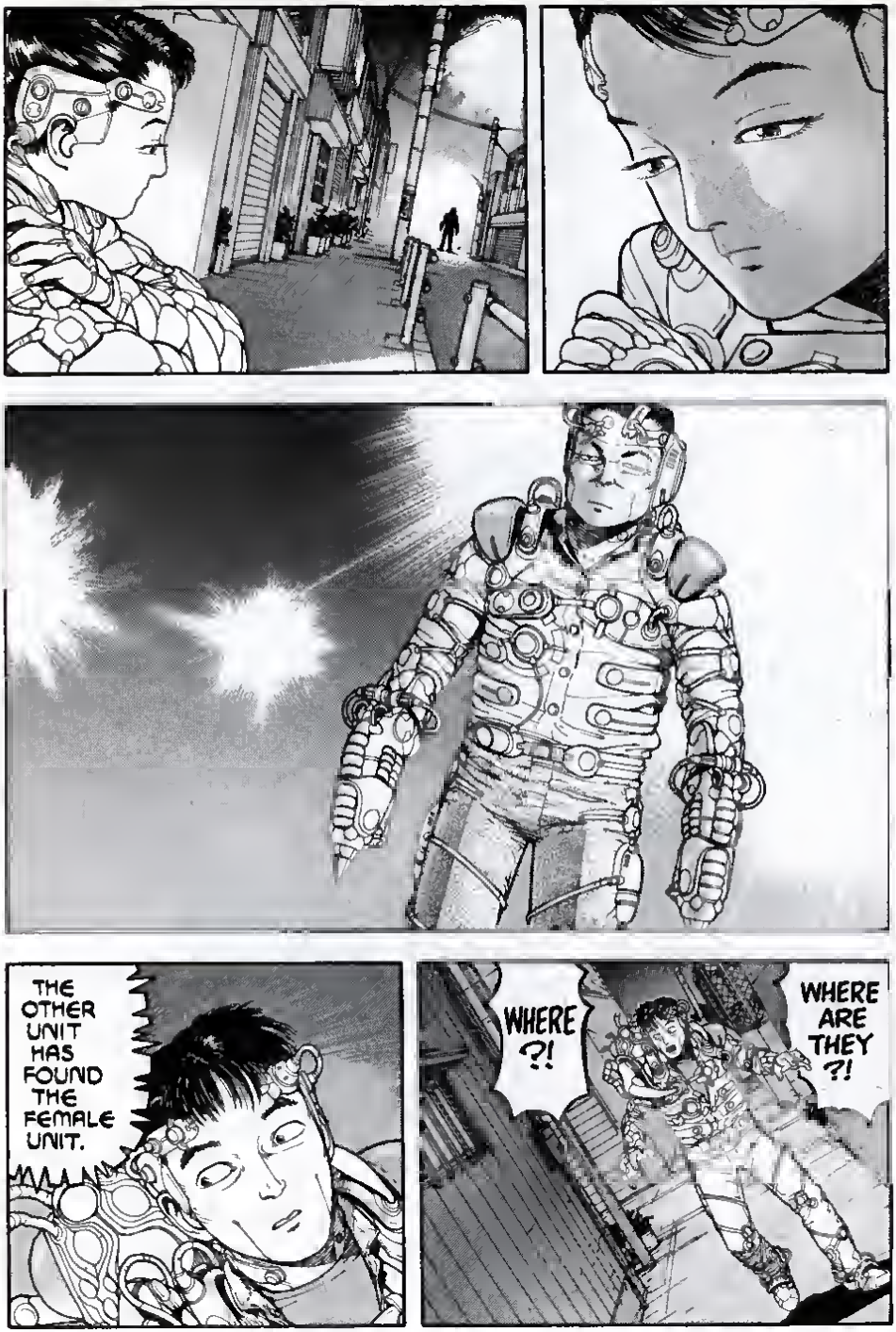

WHAT ARE YOU SHOUTING? IS THAT THE NAME OF THE FEMALE UNIT?
HUH?

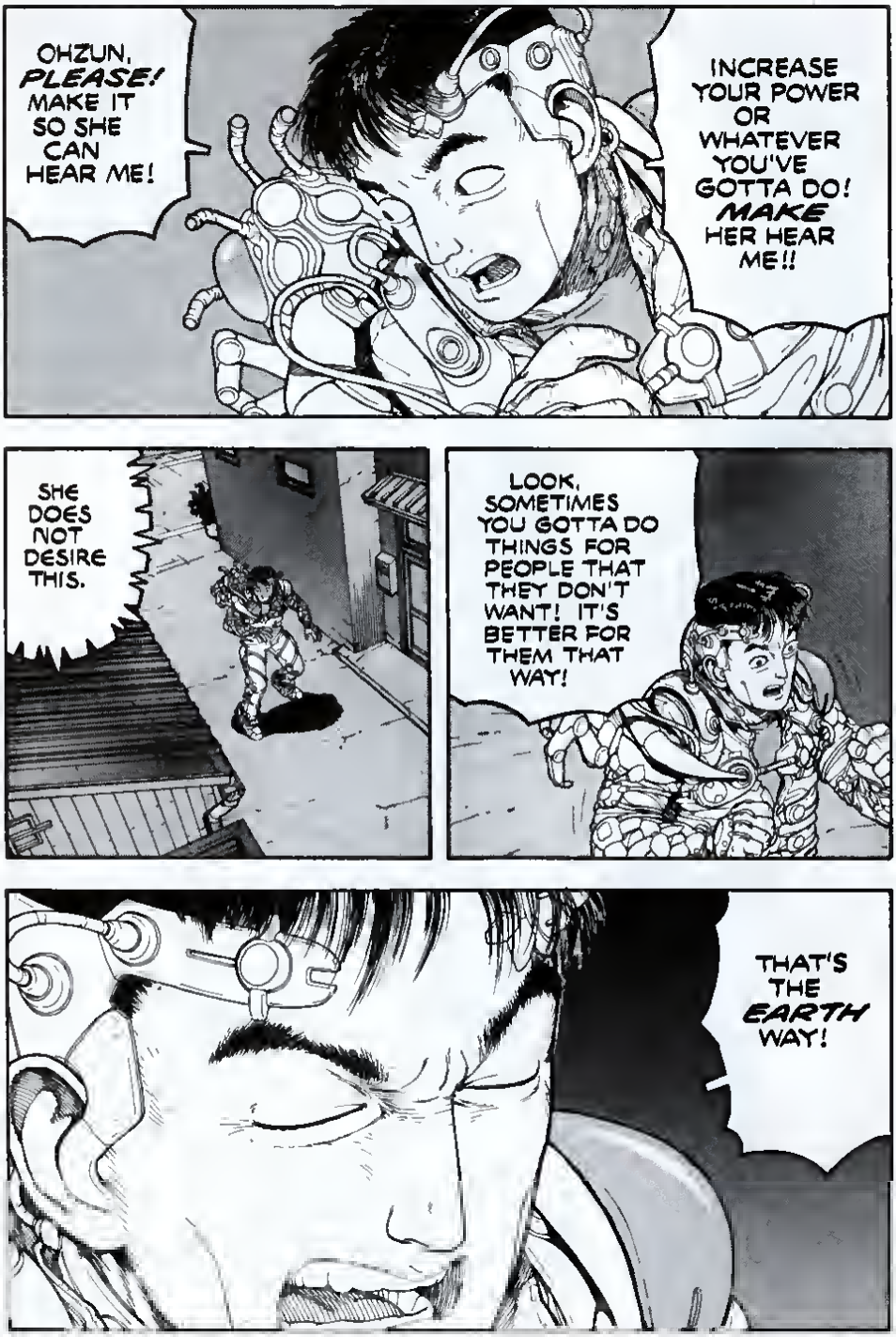

OH, YEAH... WELL, THAT WAS HER NAME BEFORE SHE GOT MARRIED, ANYWAY.


YOUR VOICE IS NOT BEING RECEIVED. HER BYPASS CIRCUIT HAS SHUT DOWN HER COMMUNICATIONS CIRCUIT. SHE HAS WISHED FOR THIS HERSELF.


SHE DOES NOT DESIRE TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.


KAWAMOTO
I AM TOO HAPPY. AS HAPPY AS I NEED TO BE, ANYWAY. I WAS HAPPY BEFORE, AND I'M STILL HAPPY.
I DIDN'T GIVE UP MY DREAMS FOR NO REASON AT ALL. YOU'RE WRONG!


THE OTHER UNIT HAS FOUND THE FEMALE UNIT.
WHERE ?!
WHERE ARE THEY ?!


OHZUN, PLEASE! MAKE IT SO SHE CAN HEAR ME!
INCREASE YOUR POWER OR WHATEVER YOU'VE GOTTA DO! MAKE HER HEAR ME!!
SHE DOES NOT DESIRE THIS.
LOOK, SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA DO THINGS FOR PEOPLE THAT THEY DON'T WANT! IT'S BETTER FOR THEM THAT WAY!
THAT'S THE EARTH WAY!

ALL RIGHT! CUT!
GREAT! YOU WERE GREAT, CHIAKI!
OKAY, STRIKE THE SET!

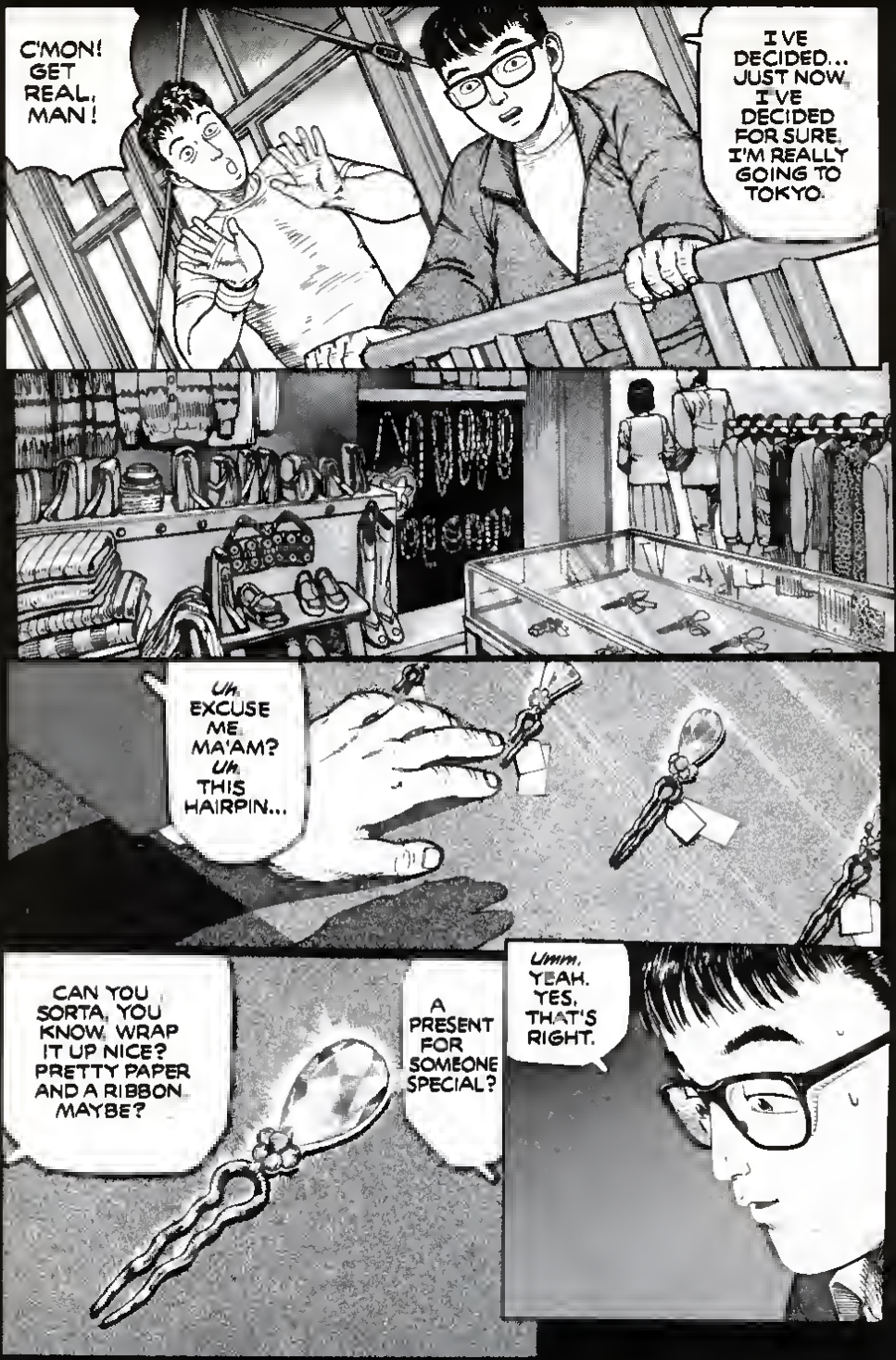
WHAT THE HELL, MACHIDA? YOU KNOW CHIAKI? CHILDHOOD SWEETHEARTS, MAYBE?
NO, NO! NOTHING LIKE THAT!
I DON'T THINK SHE'S EVEN NOTICED. HEY, WHY SHOULD SHE REMEMBER SOME OLD FLING?
WHAT THE HELL? "FLING"...? TELL US MORE, LOVER BOY!
HEY, IT WASN'T... I MEAN, UH... I-I JUST KINDA KNEW HER IN HIGH SCHOOL...
HEY, YOU GUYS! YOU GUYS! YOU GOTTA COME!
THIS IS, LIKE, TOO AWESOME!!

A TALENT SCOUT? YOU SURE HE'S NOT JUST SOME PERVERT?
NO WAY! HE'S FOR REAL, FOR SURE!
YOUR CLASSMATES? YOU ALL CAME ALONG FOR THE SHOW?
WE'RE ALL IN DIFFERENT GRADES, BUT, LIKE...
...WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME CLUB-- THE DRAMA CLUB!
WELL, YOU CERTAINLY DO HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS. HOW ABOUT YOU, YOUNG LADY... ARE YOU A FRESHMAN?

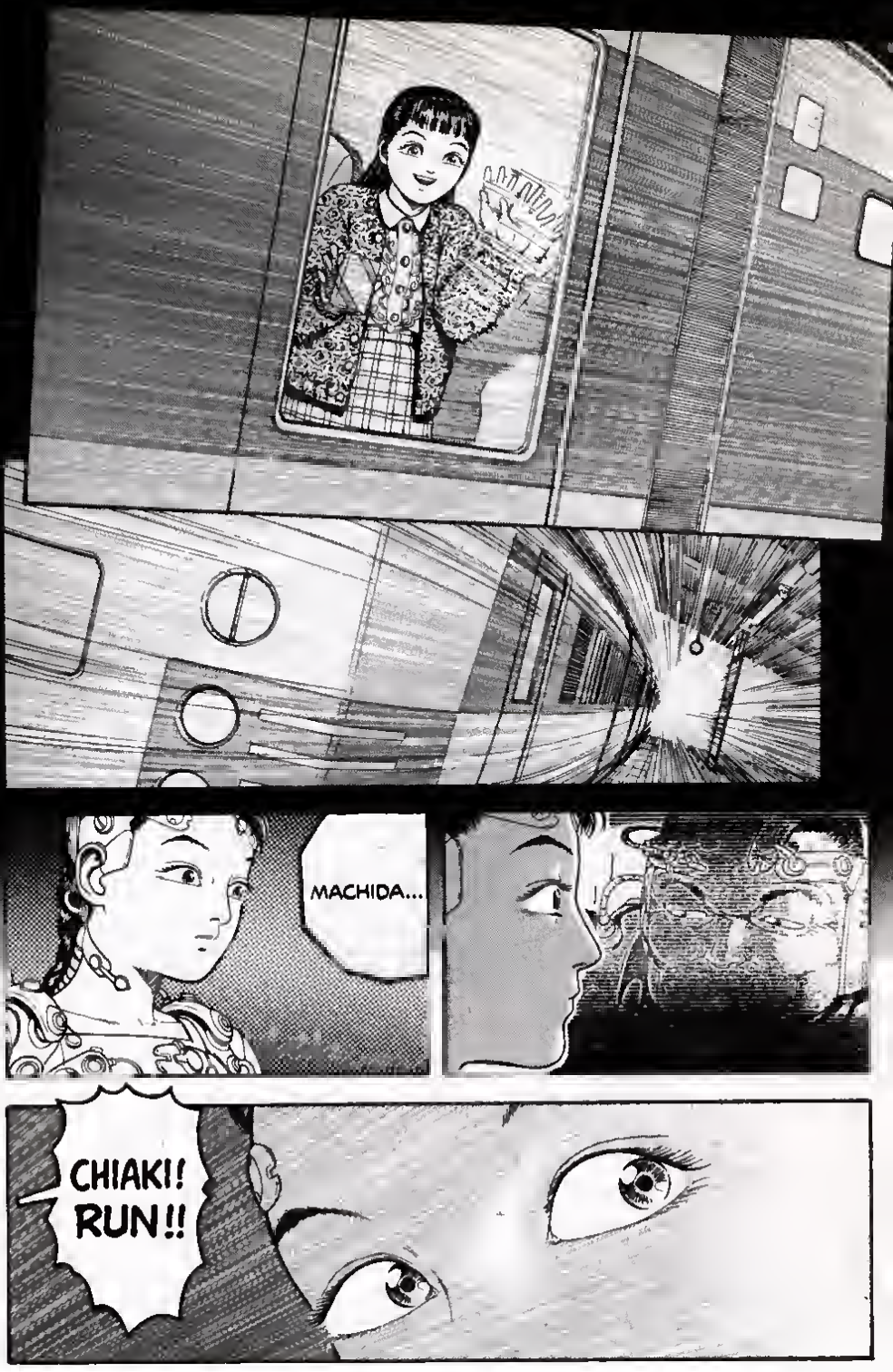
HEY, I THINK SHE SHOULD GO FOR IT.
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, MAN. BUT CHIAKI'S REALLY WORRIED ABOUT IT, Y'KNOW.
C'MON-- WHAT HARM CAN COME FROM TRYING, CHIAKI!? IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN ALWAYS QUIT, HUH?
WRONG! THAT'S COMPLETELY WRONG! IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT, DO IT!!
TEN YEARS... GIVE IT TEN YEARS. AND IF IT'S STILL NOT HAPPENING BY THEN... THEN YOU CAN QUIT.
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT IT'S GONNA TAKE CHIAKI!

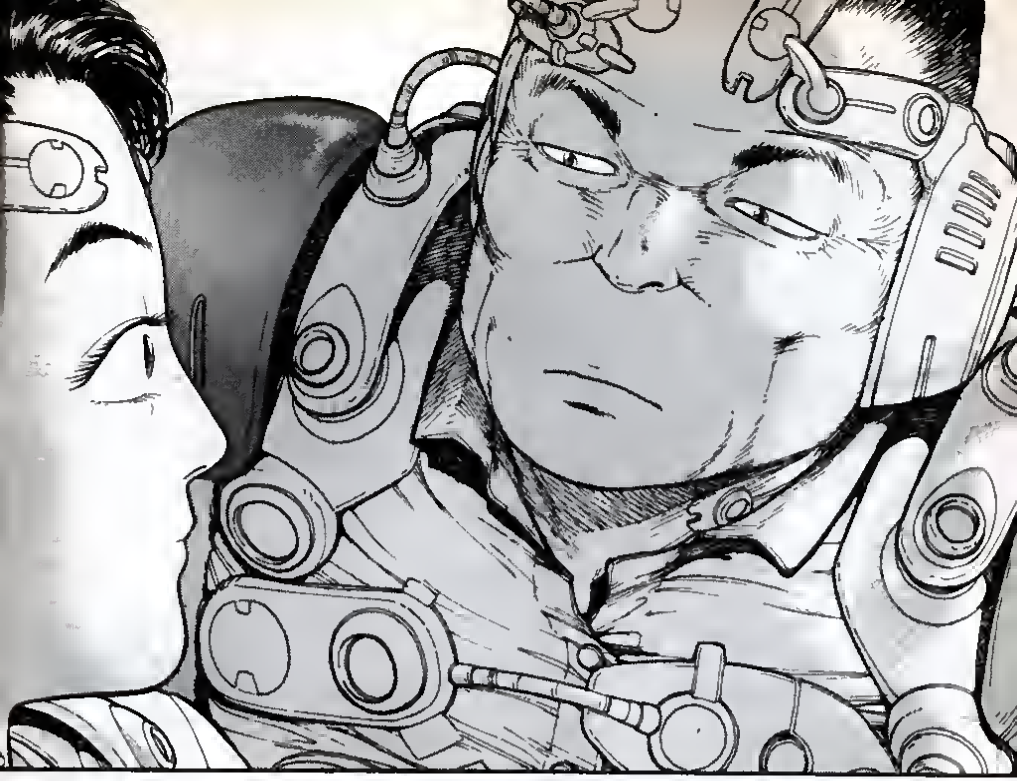
HEY, MACHIDA.
MACHIDA!

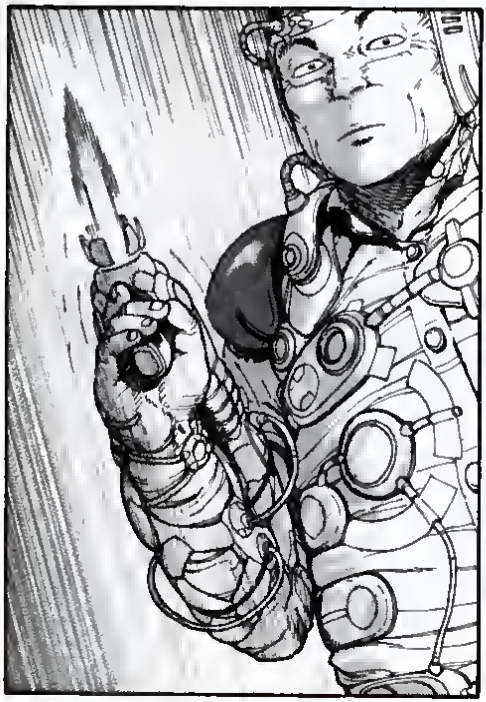
IT'S HIM...
HE'S THAT GUY FROM SCHOOL?
DIDJA HEAR MAN? CHIAKI'S CHANGING SCHOOLS.
SHE SAID SHE SIGNED A STUDIO CONTRACT, MAN! I GUESS SHE'S GOT TO GO LIVE IN TOKYO THEN. *Huh?*
SERIOUS BUMMER, MAN. IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT FOR SAYING THAT "TEN YEARS" CRAP TO HER. THAT'S WHAT MADE HER DO IT.
AFTER I GRADUATE, I'M GOING TO TOKYO, TOO!
HUH? ARE YOU NUTS OR--*WAIT* A SEC! *NOW* I GET IT! YOU'RE CHASING AFTER CHIAKI!
THAT... THAT'S NOT THE REASON. I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS A LONG TIME. I'M GOING TO GO WORK ON MOVIES.

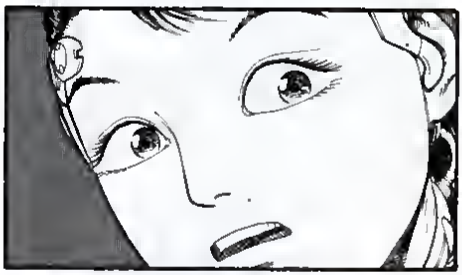

C'MON! GET REAL, MAN!
I'VE DECIDED... JUST NOW. I'VE DECIDED FOR SURE. I'M REALLY GOING TO TOKYO.
Uh, EXCUSE ME, MA'AM? Uh, THIS HAIRPIN...
CAN YOU SORTA, YOU KNOW, WRAP IT UP NICE? PRETTY PAPER AND A RIBBON, MAYBE?
A PRESENT FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL?
Umm, YEAH. YES. THAT'S RIGHT.

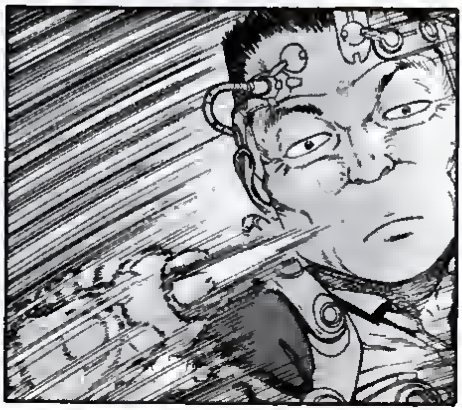
H-HERE... THIS IS FOR YOU! SORRY I COULDN'T GET YOU ANYTHING BETTER...
FOR ME? WOW, THANK YOU!
GIVE IT EVERY THING YOU'VE GOT... CHIAKI.
OKAY! I WILL!

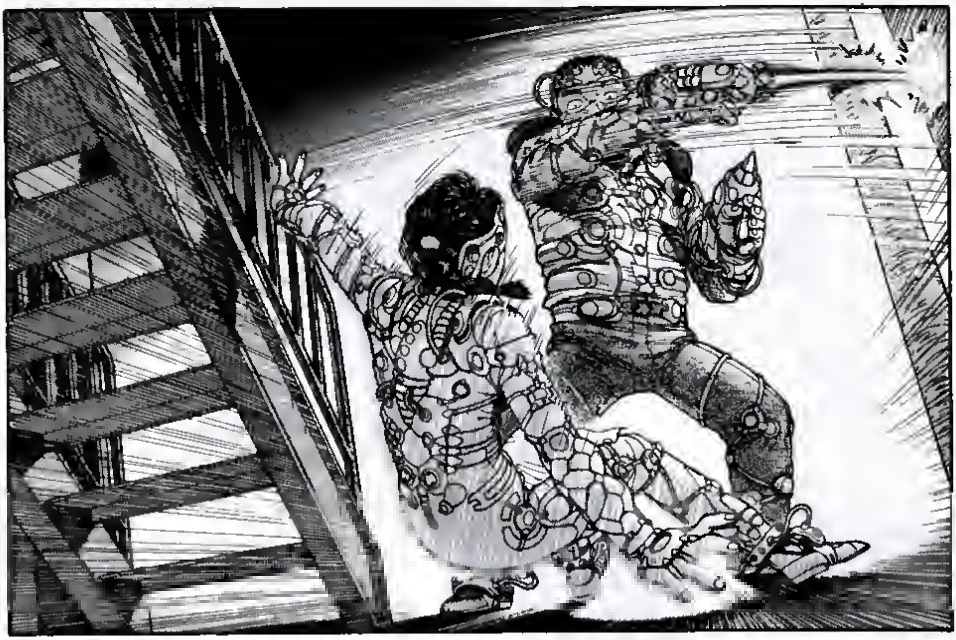

MACHIDA...
CHIAKI! RUN!!

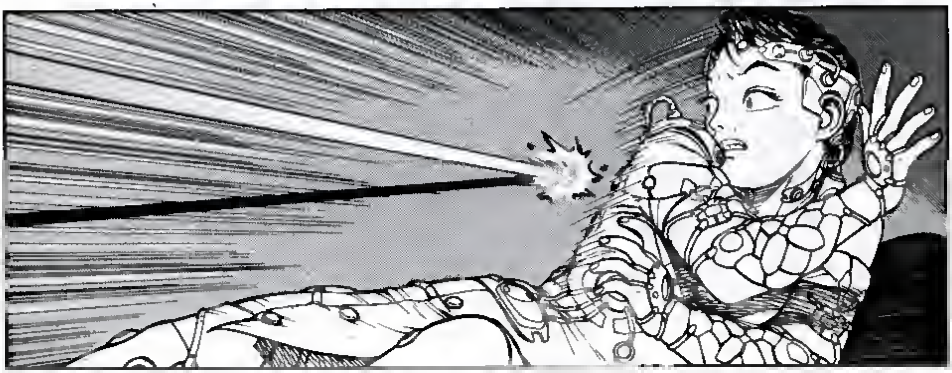


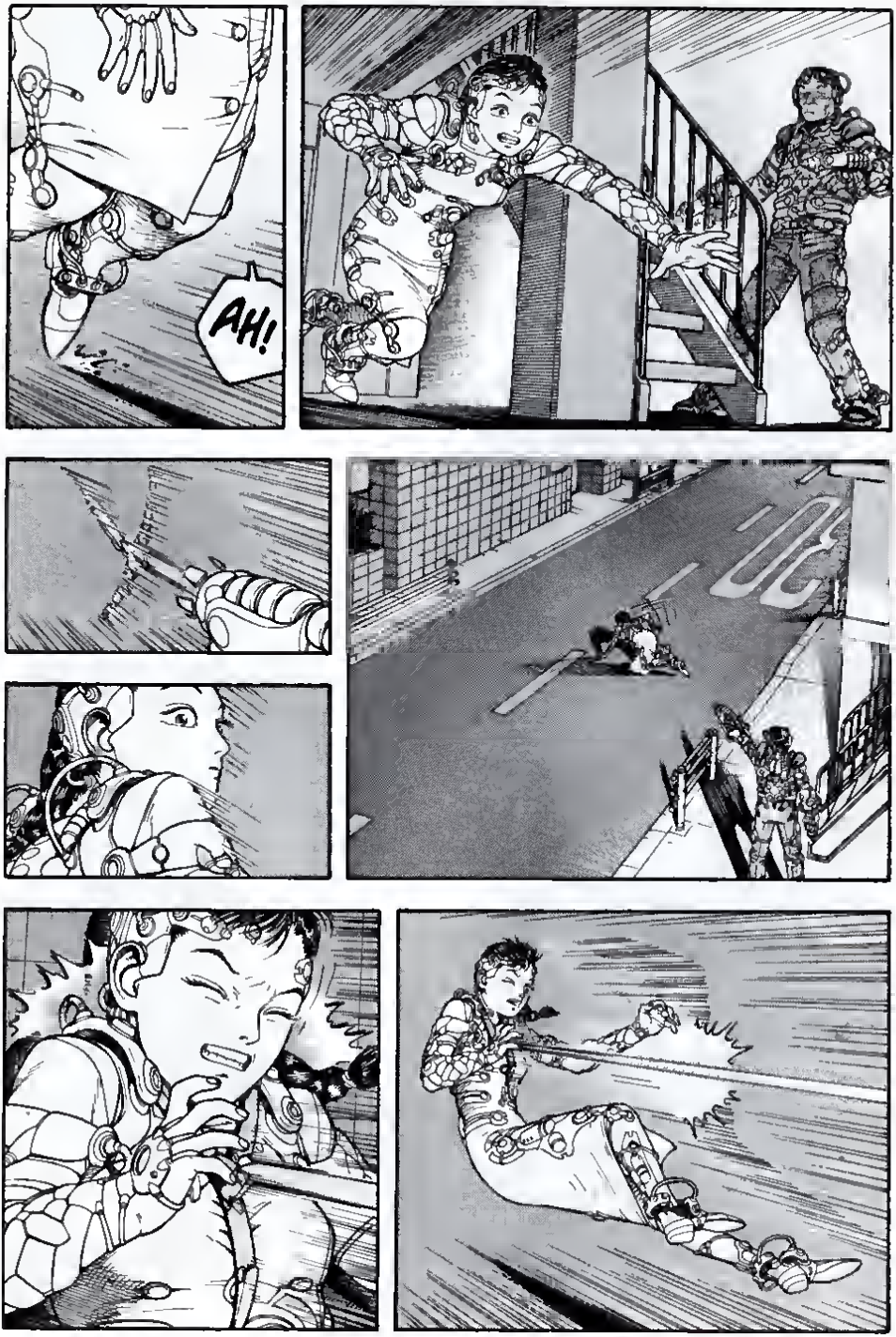




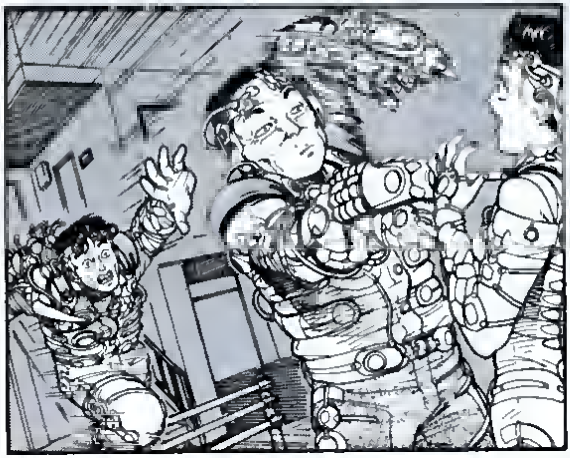




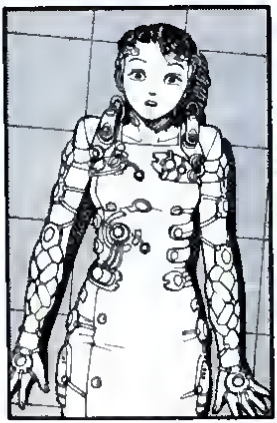



AH!

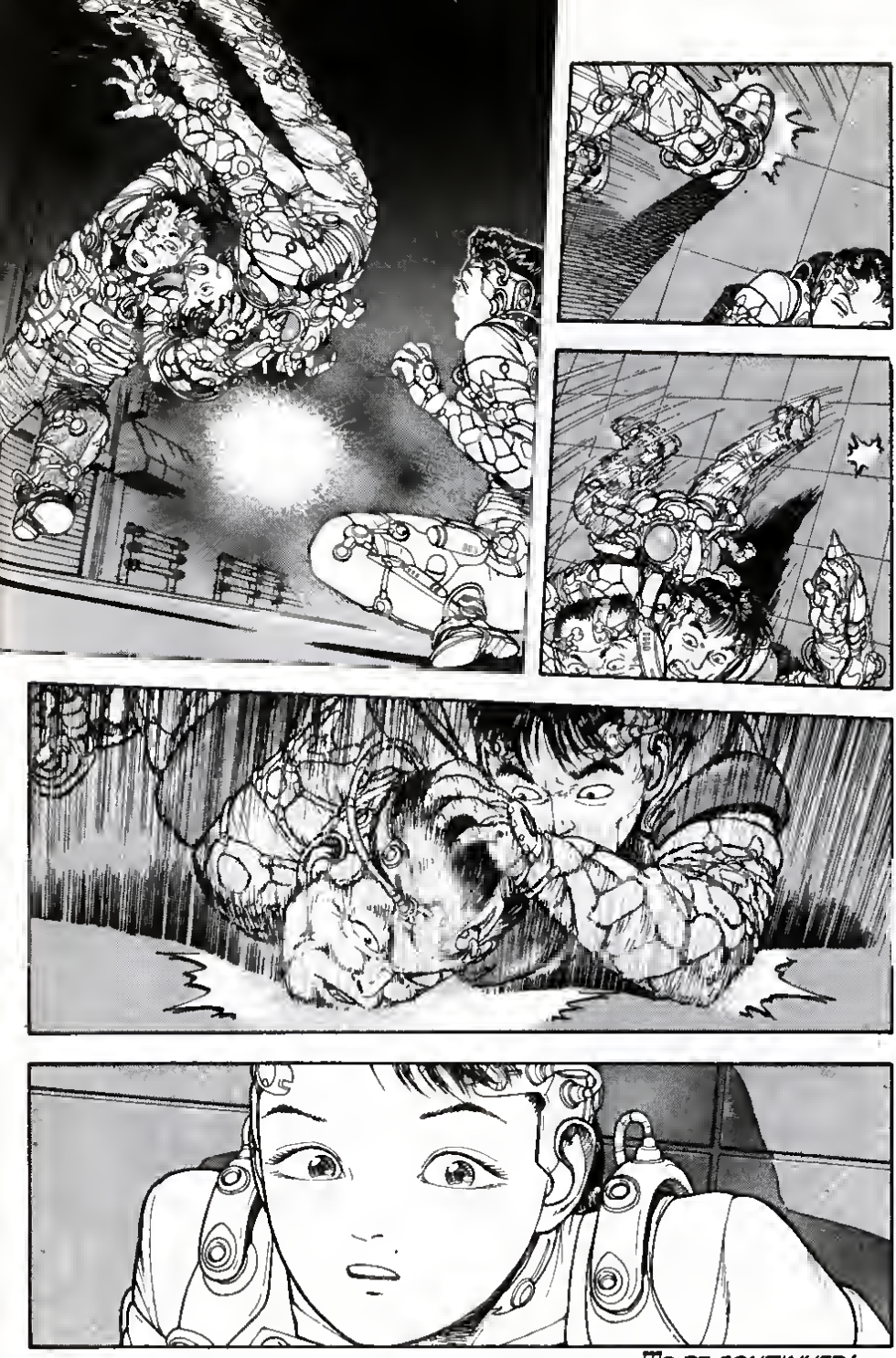
CHIAKI
!!



RUN!
RUN
!!



HNG!



TO BE CONTINUED!